



# Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

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## **Statement of U.S. Senator Max Baucus on Hurricane Katrina Health Relief Package**

**(WASHINGTON, D.C.)** U.S. Senator Max Baucus, ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, issued the following statement regarding the announcement of health and welfare provisions designed to provide assistance to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The package was announced with Chairman Charles Grassley today. The statement follows:

“Unsanitary conditions and disease threaten the health of the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Those affected by Katrina need immediate access to medical care. The package that Senator Grassley and I are announcing today will provide health and income assistance to help out those who need it, right away.

“The package will waive red tape and provide easier access to Medicaid for Hurricane Katrina victims. Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama the federal government will assist these states by paying 100 percent of Medicaid and child health care program costs through 2006. Additional payments will be given to the hospitals and providers caring for evacuees.

“A 13-week extension of unemployment benefits will be extended to those who are still seeking jobs in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama and allow victims to access a portion of the TANF Contingency Fund reserved for financial crises.

“I urge my colleagues to act quickly to pass both the tax and health package to reach those in urgent need of assistance.”

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